

dent who will appoint an Attorney General to continue these prosecutions. Four years ago Mr. Cortelyou returned, as I am informed, any money forwarded by any one • who was being prosecuted or proceeded against by the National Government, or who had any personal interest whatever in any matter pending before the administration. "

Mr. Sheldon's reply to this letter caused great surprise and distress to the President for it informed him that his directions to Mr. Cortelyou, Chairman of the Republican National Committee in 1904, quoted in an earlier chapter, to return a Standard Oil contribution to the campaign fund, had not been obeyed. He replied to Mr. Sheldon's note

as follows, on September 25, 1908:  
 "There is one feature of your letter of the 22d which causes me much surprise. You say that in 1904 the contribution of the Standard Oil Company I spoke of was made under the authority of its executive committee. This is the first time I was aware that such a contribution was made. In response to my letters Mr.

Cortelyou told me that no Standard Oil money was received or would be received. Later, after the campaign closed, I was informed

from a different source that certain individuals who had contributed had Standard Oil as well as other interests.

Mr. Cortelyou informed me that he made his statement on Mr. Bliss's authority, which he and I were of course warranted in accepting as final." (See Chapter XXVII, Vol. I.)

The campaign was not proceeding with the aggressive vigor which the President considered desirable, and toward

the end of September he yielded to the appeals of the  
campaign managers and decided to take a hand in it himself.  
; He wrote a long letter, addressed to the  
Democratic candi-  
k date, William Jennings Bryan, which was  
published in the  
! newspapers and called forth a vigorous  
reply from Mr.  
Bryan. Roosevelt responded in a second and no less  
vigor-